Kennedy's Cabinet Choices, P. 2

Grimmer Sidelights on That Glamorized New York Times Supplement, "Citizen Atom", Page 4

I. F. Stone's Weekly

VOL. VIII, NO. 46 DECEMBER 19, 1960 WASHINGTON, D. C. 15 CENTS

A Nuclear Warning Disregarded on Pearl Harbor Day

I have never seen an important story so quickly swept under the rug as in the case of the AP dispatch from Omaha Dec. 7 reporting that radar reflections from the moon set off a missile attack scare at Strategic Air Command headquarters on Oct. 5. The date of the disclosure, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, was a fitting one. It is not impossible that the next war may be set off by a "surprise attack" accidentally triggered by our own electronic watchdogs. The story appeared on the front pages of the *Washington Star* (Dec. 7) and of the *Washington Post* (Dec. 8) but was buried on page 71 of the Dec. 8 *New York Times*, presumably as news just barely fit to print.

The Story Broke First in England

Actually this story broke a week earlier in England where it gave rise to questions in Parliament, but for some reason no news of it was cabled back to the U.S. The story first appeared in *The Guardian* (Manchester) Nov. 28 in Michael Frayn's "Miscellany" column.*

"Do you know the world nearly ended last week? The early warning radio station at Thule picked up signals which were analyzed by the computers there as a flight of missiles coming up over the horizon from Russia and heading in the direction of America.

"The famous red telephone rang at Strategic Air Command headquarters in Nebraska. All over the world SAC crews stood to their planes. Someone in Nebraska signalled Thule for confirmation. There was no answer. Thule must have been hit already. What restrained Free-World from launching its retaliation weapons during the next half-hour I do not know, unless it was those old-fashioned deterrents, incredulity and funk.

"Whatever it was, it came in handy, for it turned out that Thule had picked up not a squadron of rockets, but a large earth satellite of whose existence intelligence had apparently failed to inform them, called the moon. By the time they discovered this little error, however, they were prevented from passing the correction on because an iceberg had cut their submarine cable link. . . . I bet they had a grand old laugh about it afterwards. I'd utter a guffaw or two myself if my teeth weren't chattering so much."

Next day questions were raised in the House of Commons by three Labor members, Mr. Swingler, Mrs. Hart and Mr. Emrys-Hughes. According to *The Guardian* (Nov. 30), Mr. Swingler and Mrs. Hart asked the Prime Minister "about a report that U.S. aircraft operating from this country had been alerted as a result of mistakes in the radar aerials and computers at the radar station, Thule, Greenland."

Mr. Swingler wanted to know if Mr. Macmillan had raised with the American President "the question of preventing such incidents because of the danger of accidental war arising from miscalculation or muddle."

"Amply Sufficient to Prevent Nuclear War"

In a written parliamentary reply, the Prime Minister declared, "No British forces and no U.S. forces in this country were alerted on the occasion to which the Hon. Members refer. I am satisfied that our precautions are amply sufficient to prevent nuclear war starting as a result of accident on the part of the West."

The fact that the reply was in written form means that Mr. Macmillan had advance notice of the questions, and time to frame his answer. Under British parliamentary practice, a written reply also serves to cut off further questions on the subject until the next week's meeting of the House.

There may be some contradiction between the Prime Minister's reply and the story from Omaha. The first AP dispatch as it appeared in the *Washington Star* Dec. 7, said "The story came to light after a British paper, the Manchester Guardian, reported a similar incident had taken place last week. SAC said, however, the only recent incident was October 5." The Prime Minister's reply, however, seemed to imply that the *Guardian* story was correct.

The AP's wording is tantalizing: "SAC said . . . the only recent incident was October 5." Have there been others? How often do such false alarms occur?

The later AP story as it appeared next day on page 71 of the *New York Times* reported the Air Force said "its equipment had been adjusted to avert more such flurries." A spokesman was quoted as saying that Gen. Laurence Kuter, the SAC commander "had found immediately that the reported detection 'was totally unsubstantiated by other information sources and in no way indicated a threat' of missile attack."

What Other Sources?

What other sources are used when this expensive early warning network boggles? Does the SAC call the local Omaha paper and ask, "Say, have you fellows heard anything of a Russian missile attack?" General Kuter according to the second AP version "ordered the data to be disregarded and he telephoned Thule. He was told the apparatus there had not been operating properly."

All this is treated as casually by our press as if it concerned a minor piece of plumbing, though a slipup of this kind might send most of humanity down the drain. Isn't there some member of Congress alert enough to demand a full investigation of this disturbing affair?

*** The story was not reprinted, however, in the weekly overseas airmail edition of The Guardian, but appeared in the Dec. 2 airmail issue of London's vigilant Peace News. On the other hand the AP confirmation from Omaha did not appear in The Times of London either. It is as if the press on both sides were in league to shield their peoples from such news.**

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

New Secretary of State Antagonized Acheson and Became China Lobby Hero in 1951

Much Good to Be Said of Kennedy's Cabinet Choices — Rusk Only Doubt

Given the realities of political life, the Cabinet being appointed by President-elect Kennedy is shaping up well. Stewart Udall was an excellent choice for Secretary of the Interior. Abraham A. Ribicoff is passable as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Luther Hodges is an enlightened Southerner, not a bad choice for Secretary of Commerce.

The choice of Robert S. McNamara of the Ford Motor Company as Secretary of Defense seems on its face preferable to someone from the electronics companies which are now the prime advocates of a stepped up arms race; our last Defense Secretary from the auto industry, Charles Wilson of General Motors, turned out to be a friend of peace and no respecter of brasshats. At least for the auto industry today, military contracts are a side issue, not almost everything as they are with such companies as General Dynamics whose Frank Pace wanted the job, or with the aviation crowd.

Topsy-Turvy State Dept. Choices

The State Department choices are odd in being topsy turvy. The best man is put furthest down on its bureaucratic totem pole; the mediocre one, on top; the second best, in between. By any sensible standard Dean Rusk would seem best fitted for the rather routine job of UN representative, and Adlai Stevenson would have been Secretary of State with Chester Bowles as Under Secretary.

It remains to be seen whether Mr. Rusk is just a technician, as the press parrots the line from Kennedy headquarters, or a positive force; whether Stevenson and Bowles are just the icing on the cake, or whether Mr. Rusk has been given the top job to insulate Bowles and Stevenson from right wing Congressional pressures and to enable Kennedy to be (as they say) his own Secretary of State.

Mr. Rusk (as may be seen from the box below) was not quite the colorless State Dept. character he is cracked up to be. He became the hero of the China lobby and the MacArthurites in 1951 as Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern affairs and left the State Department after his relations with Secretary Acheson became strained. He went to the Rockefeller Foundation and participated in the preparation of the Rockefeller reports which advocated a stepped up arms race behind a smokescreen of diffuse liberalism. His appointment means that the Rockefeller-Chase Manhattan-Standard Oil family, oriented toward a strong Germany and a tough colonial policy, will have a friendly ear in the topmost job of the Cabinet.

We applaud the tone of Kennedy's statements in naming Rusk and McNamara, with their stress on peace. We welcome the assurance that Stevenson's job will have enhanced prestige and give him entrance to Cabinet discussions on former policy. We are glad to see Bowles as Under Secretary. And we welcome the appointment of G. Mennen Williams as Assistant Secretary for African Affairs. He and his wife have a warm understanding sympathy that should make him and our country friends among the new African nations.

We wish Senator Fulbright had been named Secretary of State and we believe both Negro and Zionist organizations were wrong in opposing this thoughtful and courageous man.

Testimonials

"He's a man of a million ideas," one former State Dept. associate cites as his own major impression of Mr. Rusk. "He throws out ideas all the time. They're not all good, but a lot of them are. When we faced the Berlin blockade, he raised the question: 'Why shouldn't we run an armored car through and see what happens'?"

—Man of A Million Ideas, New York Times, Dec. 13

"His [Rusk's] appointment pleases most career men at the State Department; they are considerably less happy about the prospect of welcoming Mr. Bowles. The Rusk reputation is that of a 'solid citizen'."

—Wall St. Journal, Dec. 13

The Circumstances Under Which Rusk Last Left the State Department

"Assistant Secretary of State Dean Rusk said in a New York speech May 18 the U.S. regarded the Chinese Red regime as 'not Chinese', could assure the Chinese people of 'added strength' if they try to throw off Red 'tyranny.' This was regarded by many as a hint the U.S. would back an anti-Red revolution in China and have no dealings with the Chinese Reds, even in Korean peace talks.

"But such implications were denied by the State Dept. May 21, and again May 23 by Secretary of State Dean Acheson in his news conference. (Acheson reportedly rebuked Rusk for the speech.) He told newsmen there was no change in U.S. policy despite claims of MacArthur adherents the Government had been forced to adopt the General's ideas."

—Facts on File, 1951, Page 163N.

"Resignation. Asst. State Secy. Dean Rusk, 42, Dec. 6. Rusk will succeed Chester I. Barnard as Rockefeller Foundation president when the latter retires June 30, 1952."

—Facts on File, 1951, Page 396K

"One reporter asked [Acheson] whether Rusk's statement . . . meant that the U.S. would refuse to negotiate a settlement with that [Peking] regime in Korea. To this Acheson replied [direct quotation not allowed in those days at State Dept.] that, well, as he had pointed out, if you are going to stop fighting with people that are fighting with you, you would have to deal with the people who are fighting with you. . . .

"The reporter then pressed the real question, 'Mr. Secretary, if a cease-fire were arranged, would we be willing to negotiate with the Red China regime a permanent settlement?' Acheson replied that he thought he had said enough on the subject, and did not intend to say any more.

"But could peace be achieved in the Far East if this, the crucial question, were evaded? The inescapable point had been made the day before by Walter Lippmann when he said that if the Rusk speech were to be adopted as policy 'then the administration has worked itself into a fantastic predicament. It has made the issue with Red China not the repulse of its aggression in Korea but that of its survival. Regimes do not negotiate about their survival. . . . These issues are not negotiable. They can be settled only by total victory'."

—I. F. Stone: The Hidden History of the Korean War

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Four Justices Prepared to Uphold Statute Aimed at Sympathizers With Integration

Supreme Court Barely Musters Five Votes Against Ark. Teacher Purge Law

The Arkansas statute held unconstitutional in a 5-to-4 decision by the Supreme Court last Monday was one of those passed by the State Legislature's second emergency session in 1958 to prevent integration in Little Rock. Its purpose was to uncover and drive out of the school system any teachers hostile to segregation. It required all teachers to file an annual affidavit listing every organization to which they had belonged or regularly contributed in the preceding five years. Arkansas teachers serve on a year-to-year basis and are not protected by civil service.

The Act did not limit itself to so-called "subversive" organizations. Mr. Justice Stewart's opinion for the Court leaves one to infer that a statute so written might have been upheld. But it would also appear from footnote 7 of the opinion that a statute of that kind would not have served the purposes for which it was intended.

A White Citizens Council Project

According to this footnote, a witness in the state court proceedings who was a member of the Capital Citizens Council testified that his group intended to gain access to the affidavits with a view to eliminating teachers who supported certain organizations the white citizens council did not like. "Among such organizations," says the footnote, "he named the American Civil Liberties Union, the Urban League, the American Association of University Professors, and the Women's Emergency Committee to Open Our Schools." Even in the overheated atmosphere of the South, it would be hard to stigmatize such organizations as subversive. The statute had to be broad.

The main target of the act was the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples. One of the teachers who refused to sign an affidavit was a Negro, B. T. Shelton, who admitted belonging to the NAACP. The other two teachers who defied the law were white: Max Carr, a music professor at the University of Arkansas, and Ernest T. Gephardt, a teacher at Central High School in Little Rock. The evidence showed none had ever been connected with any organization remotely to be described as subversive.

Un-Americanism in Louisiana

"Today a telegram was sent by the president of the Louisiana Association of Citizens Councils . . . to Tom Jewell, Speaker of the House in Baton Rouge. It said the Association had 'made a check of license numbers of cars hauling children into Frantz School at New Orleans,' and listed a dozen names, addresses and license numbers.

"These were the identities of white parents and members of the Save Our Schools organization who have been defying both the boycott and the segregationist hecklers to transport children to the besieged school. The wire continued:

"We urgently request that you refer these names to the Committee on Un-American Activities of the Louisiana legislature for investigation. . . .'"

—New York Herald-Tribune, from New Orleans, Dec. 10.

The Supreme Court's attitude was disappointing. Almost always, where Negro rights are concerned, the Court has been unanimous. But here where the First amendment freedoms of both white and Negro teachers were involved, the Court split. Warren, Black, Douglas and Brennan, the liberals, were only able to win Stewart to their side by acquiescing in a very narrow ruling.

The four dissenters, Harlan, Frankfurter, Clark and Whittaker, showed their bias in favor of allowing the government to restrict First amendment rights when "overbalanced" by other considerations. The main dissent relied on the

Mr. Justice Frankfurter in a separate dissent began by describing himself as "one who has strong views against crude intrusions by the state into the atmosphere of creative freedom in which alone the spirit and mind of a teacher can fruitfully function" and ended by suggesting that maybe the Arkansas legislature merely wanted to make sure that teachers weren't expending too much time on outside activity! He did add that "of course" if it were used to purge teachers "solely because of their membership in unpopular organizations, that use will run afoul of the 14th amendment."

Documentary: A Cry for Help From A Negro Who Tried to Vote in Mississippi

"On Saturday, Nov. 19, my daughter, Lynda Faye Kuykendall, was beaten severely in the town of Batesville, Miss., by a Mr. Leo Daniels, manager of the Sterling Variety Store, and the town Marshal, Mr. I. C. Seales. Mr. Daniels accused my daughter, Lynda Faye, of stealing some candy from his store. Lynda Faye denied stealing the candy and told me she bought the candy from the Golden Rule store. I went to the Golden Rule store and asked whether the candy in question had been purchased from the Golden Rule store and was informed by the lady there that she had sold the candy in question to Lynda Faye.

"All of this abuse took place after Lynda Faye told them she was my daughter. My trouble began with the local officials after I tried to register to vote. I was not permitted to register and have been bothered by them ever since in one way or another. Mr. Daniels and Mr. Seales slapped and hit Lynda Faye. Mr. Seales hit her with a blackjack. Her head and face were so swollen that she was required to remain in the hospital three days.

"Lynda Faye is just 12 years old. . . .

"Since the incident I have been harassed no end. Telephone threats against me and my family are commonplace. Threats to burn the house down on us are prevalent. On Sunday night, Nov. 27, somebody burned a cross near my house, the remains of which are still available. My name is Willie Kuykendall, Negro male. My address is Route 2, Box 8, Batesville, Miss. My telephone number is 7250. Whatever advice or assistance you can give to me will be appreciated. If I can get assistance I plan to remain here on my own home and land. I cannot, however, cope with the lawless element of the white group alone. I feel that no act is beneath their dignity even to murdering me. I will be here as long as I can; your assistance will be the greatest factor in determining just what course I take."

—Signed, Willie Kuykendall, County of Coahoma, Miss., sworn before R. L. Greed, notary public. Affidavit filed with the Dept. of Justice and the Civil Rights Commission. Copy sent us by Southern Conference Educational Fund.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

True Picture Different From Glamorized New York Times Supplement on "Citizen Atom"

Sober Warnings on the Radioactivity in Food, Drugs and Waste

RADIATION-IS-GOOD-FOR-YOU: That special *New York Times* Sunday supplement (Dec. 11) on "Citizen Atom" by General Electric is being broadcast by nuclear firms to soft soap public opinion on radioactive dangers in peacetime uses. *Nucleonics* (Dec. 8) reported that AFL-CIO protests had forced abandonment of plans to sell reprints without the GE label so the unwary would not realize this was advertising copy, not objective reporting; more than 1,000,000 reprints have already been ordered. Two authoritative recent speeches throw a different light on the problem. George P. Larrick, U.S. Commissioner of Food and Drugs told the Food Law Institute Conference here Nov. 28, "We do not have facilities to safeguard the food and drug supply adequately from contamination with radioactivity. We do not even have facilities to determine on a statistically sound basis whether the amounts of radioactivity now occurring in food constitute a near range or a long range threat to the public health." On Dec. 13 Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, dean of the College of Medicine at Ohio State and a past president of the AAAS, told a National Conference on Water Pollution here that the dumping of radioactive wastes in the sea was "the most serious potential danger to our long range health as far as water pollution is concerned." Dr. Leake said the concrete containers used for radioactive wastes would go to pieces in seawater and release their contents. "Out of sight, out of mind," Dr. Leake said, "is not a very satisfactory way to handle this problem."

LATIN AMERICA: American Broadcasting and Time, Inc., deserve applause for their "Yankee, No" TV film and its sympathetic exposition of Cuban and Latin American problems. . . . So does the White House for calling off our silly Caribbean patrol, and the State Dept. for finally recognizing the new regime in El Salvador. . . . There is hope of a new turn in Cuban relations and softer tone in both Havana and Washington may reflect the beginning of informal feelers for a settlement. . . . Why not let Canada mediate?

LAOS: It is impossible to overestimate the gravity of the crisis brewing in Laos. This tiny country on the borders of Communist China has all the makings of a new Korea, thanks to our unwillingness to allow a neutralist regime in accordance with the 1954 Indochinese settlement. The U.S. prefers a split Laos, with the Southern half in SEATO.

BOUQUETS: In this, our last issue of 1960 and of the Eisenhower Administration, we want to pay tribute to Attorney General Wm. P. Rogers, Jr., for bringing a fresh integrity, efficiency and respect for basic rights into the Justice Department after the dreadful years of Herbert Brownell and the Truman cronies who preceded him; to Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Arthur S. Flemming for a fine record in the public service and for his position in the Cabinet controversy over fallout and nuclear testing; and to Miss Francis G. Knight for the new courtesy and efficiency she brought into the Passport Office, and for her courage in opposing the efforts of Congressman Walter to maintain political bars on travel despite liberal court decisions.

MAN-OF-THE-YEAR AWARD: In gratitude and admiration to Dr. Willard Uphaus, who spent the year 1960 in a New Hampshire jail, a martyr in the cause of civil liberty.

Two Fallacies in the Rules Fight

Two fallacies are being propagated to discourage a fight on the rules when the new Senate convenes. The first is that it would indefinitely postpone action on the incoming President's program. This is not true. We are informed by a Senatorial authority that the fight to end the filibuster rule took two days in 1959, one day in 1957, and two days in 1953.

The other fallacy is that it would be wiser to put off the matter of rules reform until later in the session. In the Senate the only possible chance of reforming the rules by majority vote is on the opening day of a new session. In 1957 and again in 1959 Nixon as presiding officer ruled that a new Senate had a constitutional right to change its rules by majority vote on opening day. Once other business is taken up, the old rules go into effect automatically and changes after that are subject to filibuster under the two-thirds rule.

The Weekly Does Not Go to Press the Last Two Thursdays in December — Next Issue Dated January 9

I. F. Stone's Weekly, 5618 Nebraska Ave., N. W. Washington 15, D. C.

Please renew (or enter) my sub for the enclosed $5:*

Name .....

Street .....

City .....**Zone**.....**State**.....

12/19/60

Enter gift sub for $2 (6 mos.) or $4 (1 yr.) additional:

(To) Name .....

Street .....

City .....**Zone**.....**State**.....

Shall we send gift announcement? Yes ☐ No ☐

I. F. Stone's Weekly
5618 Nebraska Ave., N. W.
Washington 15, D. C.

NEWSPAPER

Second class postage paid at Washington, D. C.

I. F. Stone's Weekly. Entered as Second Class Matter at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Post-dated Mondays but published every Thursday except the last two Thursdays of August and December at 5618 Nebraska Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C. An independent weekly published and edited by I. F. Stone; Circulation Manager, Esther M. Stone. Subscription: $5 in the U. S.; 6 in Canada; $10 elsewhere. Air Mail rates: $15 to Europe; $20 to Israel, Asia and Africa.

LICENSED TO UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED